

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 109432 TOSEC 040279
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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 109432 TOSEC 040279

NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FRIDAY'S EVENING READING:

1. ANDY YOUNG'S TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA. AT NOON TODAY FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA CALLED TO SAY THAT FOLLOWING A CABINET DISCUSSION, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WAS ISSUING A STATEMENT THAT IT HAD NO OBJECTION TO ANDY YOUNG'S VISIT ON MAY 21-22. DURING THE MORNING BOTHA HAD CALLED ME TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE STORY FROM ABIDJAN INDICATING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD DRAWN UP THE LIST OF PUNITIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. I TOLD BOTHA THAT THE MEASURES REFERRED TO IN THE STORY HAD NOT BEEN ADOPTED AS UNITED STATES POLICY AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN VIENNA. THE PLAN IS FOR ANDY TO ADDRESS THE
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BUSINESSMEN'S GROUP ON SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 21, AND TO HAVE AN AFTERNOON RECEPTION AT THE USIS OFFICE ON MAY 22, AFTER WHICH HE WILL LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA.

BOTHA WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE CONSIDERATION OF THE VISIT HAD BEEN AN "EXTREMELY PAINFUL EXERCISE" FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. INDICATING THAT HE WAS NOT

MAKING A THREAT, BOTHA SAID THAT THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER IN CAPETOWN MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE THE VISIT IF AMBASSADOR YOUNG MADE PREJUDICIAL OR EMBARRASSING STATEMENTS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING HIS VISIT. WE HAVE PASSED THIS ON TO ANDY.

2. PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS CASE. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF RELIABLE REPORTS LAST FRIDAY THAT MRS. TRINIDAD HERRERA, A PROMINENT CIVIC LEADER AMONG THE SLUM-DWELLERS OF MANILA, HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND TORTURED, OUR CHARGE' DELIVERED A PERSONAL MESSAGE OF CONCERN TO PRESIDENT MARCOS. MARCOS, ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE THAT THE REPORTS WERE NOT TRUE, ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION AND INVITED OUR EMBASSY TO HAVE OBSERVERS PRESENT. TWO EMBASSY OFFICERS SPOKE WITH MRS. HERRERA PRIVATELY YESTERDAY AT THE PRISON WHERE SHE IS BEING HELD. ON THE BASIS OF HER PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND HER STATEMENTS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SHE WAS INDEED TORTURED.

TODAY MARCOS HAS ORDERED MRS. HERRERA'S RELEASE AS WELL AS THE COURT-MARTIAL OF ONE LIEUTENANT AND OTHERS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN HER MALTREATMENT. WE HAVE FOLLOWED UP WITH THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR (MRS. MARCOS' UNCLE) HERE TO ENSURE THAT HE REINFORCES WITH MARCOS OUR JUDGMENT THAT THIS CASE COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. INTEREST IN MRS. HERRERA'S CASE IS HIGH IN CONGRESS AND IN AMERICAN CHURCH GROUPS, AND WE ARE KEEPING THEM INFORMED.

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3. PAKISTAN. BHUTTO ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT THE OPPOSITION HAD "SLAMMED THE DOOR" ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING NEW ELECTIONS. HE SIMULTANEOUSLY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD HOLD A NATIONAL REFERENDUM AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE SHOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE. HE REJECTED NEW ELECTIONS AS TOO DISTURBING FOR PAKISTAN AND OFFERING "FOREIGN POWERS" AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVENE. THE REFERENDUM PROPOSAL IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE THE BASIC POLITICAL SITUATION, BUT IT MAY BUY BHUTTO MORE TIME IN THE FACE OF AN INCIPIENT REVIVAL OF AGITATION AND INCREASED MILITARY DISENCHANTMENT.

4. S. PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA. THIS MORNING I MET WITH FAMILIES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA. THEY MADE A CALM AND ORDERLY, IF HIGHLY EMOTIONAL, PRESENTATION OF THEIR CASE. AFTER EXPRESSING MY SYMPATHY, I STRESSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY ARE WORKING ACTIVELY TO DEFEND THE PRISONERS RIGHTS TO DUE PROCESS AND DECENT

TREATMENT. LATER TODAY I CALLED ASSISTANT SECRETARY
TODMAN, WHO WILL BE IN LA PAZ TOMORROW, AND DIRECTED HIM

TO PRESS THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ACTION.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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